

DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME NEW GENERA AND SPECIES OF NEW
ZEALAND COLEOPTERA.

BY D. SHARP, M.B.

Some years ago, I received from Mr. Lawson, of Searborough, some beetles collected in New Zealand by his brother, Mr. Thomas Lawson, of Auckland; and, subsequently, some additional species, in which he thought I should be interested, were liberally placed at my disposal by him. Captain Thomas Broun, of Auckland (now of Tairua), shortly afterwards sent me a number of species, the greater part of which I was obliged to return to him without names; and, lately, this gentleman has continued his entomological researches, and has forwarded me from time to time a considerable number of interesting species, a large proportion of which are undescribed. I have also received from Henry Edwards, Esq., of San Francisco, some interesting species collected by him some years ago in New Zealand; and I may mention that Captain Hutton, of Dunedin, also forwarded me a lot of beetles from the southern parts of the islands, but these, to my great regret, were lost in the post.

I have thus had the opportunity of examining a pretty good number of beetles from this interesting part of the world; but I am sure that those I have seen form only a small portion of the existing forms, and I feel pretty confident that the New Zealand species of the Order will reach the number of two or three thousand.

I now propose describing a few forms, many of which are of considerable interest, from the impossibility of reconciling them even with the best and most recent classifications. It would of course be premature at present to attempt to pronounce an opinion on the New Zealand Coleopterous fauna as a whole, but it is already certain, that highly specialized forms are in less proportion to the little specialized forms than is the case in the Northern portions of the Old World. At the same time, such forms are by no means absent; for instance, several indigenous species of *Cicindela* have been found.

Most of the new genera to be now described are what are called synthetic forms, *i. e.*, forms in which the characters of what may be considered distinct groups are combined in one insect. These new genera are nine in number, *viz.*, 1 of *Catopidæ*, 1 of *Colydiidæ*, 3 of *Tenebrionidæ*, and 4 of *Chrysomelidæ*.

HYDROPORUS WAKEFIELDI, *n. sp.*

Fuscus, sub-opacus, pedibus testaceis. thorace lateribus, clytrisque

flavosignatis, crebre punctatus; thorace lateribus minus curvatis, antrorsum leviter angustatis.

Long. corp. $4\frac{1}{4}$ mm.

Mas, femoribus posterioribus apicem versus triangulariter dilatatis.

Head closely and rather finely punctured, blackish, with the clypeus reddish at the front margin. Antennæ yellow, joints 5-10 infuseate, with their bases pale. Thorax blackish, with the sides broadly yellow, the hind angles are nearly rectangular, and the sides are but little curved, and distinctly narrowed towards the front, the anterior angles being greatly produced, the surface is finely, closely, and evenly punctured, the punctuation becoming more indistinct towards the sides. Elytra blackish, with yellow marks, very variable in extent, they are nearly dull, and are evenly and finely, but distinctly, punctured, and on the middle of each is a series of larger punctures, they are regularly curved towards the apex. Legs yellow, with the hind tarsi more or less infuseate, the hind tibiæ also sometimes darker. The under-surface is fuscous, closely and evenly punctured. The prosternal process is elongate, and much compressed laterally: the fourth joint of the front tarsi is quite visible between the lobes of the third joint.

In the male, the middle tibiæ are slightly curved, and the femora of the hind legs are triangularly dilated, so as to form an acute angle on the hind margin near the apex.

Found at Canterbury by Mr. Wakefield, and given to me by Mr H. W. Bates.

OBS.—Structurally, this species seems much allied to our European *H. carinatus*, but the prosternal process is more compressed laterally.

HYDROPORUS DUPLEX, *n. sp.*

Fuscus, fere opacus, crebre punctatus, pedibus rufis, thoracis lateribus, elytrisque indistincte testaceo-signatis; thorace lateribus bene curvatis, antrorsum angustatis.

Long. corp. $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $4\frac{3}{4}$ mm.

This species is very similar to *H. Wakefieldi*, but is rather larger, and the sides of the thorax are more rounded and narrowed in front; the testaceous markings are very indistinct, and the elytra have some obscure longitudinal elevations, which render their surface a little uneven, and the hind legs are longer.

Apparently a common species in the province of Auckland; it has been sent me both by Messrs. Broun and Lawson.

OBS.—Until I had carefully examined this species, I considered it to be only a variety of *H. Wakefieldi*, and I have sent it under that name to one or two correspondents. However, notwithstanding that it is very closely allied to the Canterbury species, I do not now think it will prove a variety thereof.

CYCLONOTUM MARGINALE, *n. sp.*

Nigrum, nitidum, sat convexum, pedibus rufo-piceis, antennis pal-

pisque rufo-testaceis; crebre punctatum, elytris seriebus punctorum apicem versus profunde impressis; tarsis posterioribus brevibus, articulo basali 2° longitudine æquali.

Long. corp. $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Head closely and finely punctured, and also with some larger punctures, which are most numerous and distinct at the sides behind the eyes. Thorax short, of the form usual in *Cyclonotum*, black, with the margins rather more dilute in colour, rather closely and finely punctured, and rather shining. Elytra shining black, with the lateral margins pitchy, each with ten rows of coarse punctures, which are most deeply impressed towards the apex, the internal ones being quite obsolete at the base, the interstices are finely and sparingly punctured, the lateral margins much explanate. Prosternum with a large process which is acute at its apex, in the middle in front. Mesosternal process stout, triangular, but with the sides depressed, so that it appears almost linear. Middle of metasternum raised, the elevated part shining and sparingly punctured, limited by two lines converging towards the hind coxæ, the sides densely and finely punctured, and quite dull. Legs short, pitchy, becoming more dilute towards the tarsi; the inner (or upper) face of the hind tibia flat, shining, with a few fine punctures, without any striæ; basal joint of the hind tarsus quite equal to the 2nd in length (indeed, when fully exposed, it is a little longer), 3rd rather shorter than 2nd.

Sent from Auckland by Mr. Lawson.

This interesting species approaches in appearance to *Cyloma Lawsonus*; compared with our European *Cyclonota*, it is aberrant in several respects, but as the extra European allied species are numerous and but little known, it would be premature to make a new generic name for it.

METOPONCUS BROUNI, n. sp.

Elongatus, castaneus, nitidus, fere lævis, elytris fuscis basi dilutioribus, pedibus abdominisque basi testaceis. *Long. corp.* 5—8 mm.

Antennæ dark red, short and stout, 2nd joint short and stout, but larger than 3rd, 6–10 differing very little from one another, transverse, 11th rather paler than the preceding joints, and a good deal longer than the 10th. Head of a chestnut colour, with a very few, scattered, moderately large punctures, and also with some sparing very fine punctures, it is not much shining. Thorax longer than broad, a little narrowed towards the base, similar in colour to the head, appearing at first impunctate, but with a series of four or five extremely obsolete punctures on each side of the middle, the base with a very fine, short, channel in the middle. Elytra scarcely longer than the thorax, of a blackish colour, with the base reddish, impunctate. Hind-body with the two basal segments yellow, the following ones reddish, but each with a large dark mark across the middle, it is impunctate and shining. Under-side of head almost impunctate, and with a well marked lateral margin.

Numerous specimens of this insect have been sent me by Captain Broun, who informs me that it is found under the bark of decaying

logs of *Dammara australis*, in company with *Mitrastethus baridioides*, Redt., and *Xenocnema spinipes*, Woll. The species varies a good deal in size.

CAMIRUS,* *n. gen.* (*Catopidæ*).

Antennæ 11-articulatæ, apice leviter incrassatæ, articulo 8° contiguus minore.

Palpi maxillares articulo ultimo magno, sub-securiformi.

Caput parvum, oculi prominuli, liberi.

Tibiæ pubescentes.

Maxillary palpi with the 2nd joint elongate and slender, 3rd not half so long as 2nd, 4th much dilated internally so as to be nearly securiform. Head small, not adapted in form to close the front of the thorax, the eyes very convex, almost hemispherical, their hind part free. Mesosternum large, slightly separating the middle coxæ, which are much immersed. Hind coxæ very nearly contiguous, inwardly broad, but pointed at their outer extremity, their trochanters rather large and adapted to the femora. Hind-body with five visible ventral segments.

The very anomalous insects for which I make this generic name, I associate with the *Catopidæ*, because they agree satisfactorily with those insects in the structure of the prothorax, though in other respects they are very anomalous. In many points, they approach the *Scydmænidæ*, and will probably ultimately be considered a distinct group, intermediate between the *Catopidæ* and *Scydmænidæ*. The two species are extremely dissimilar in appearance, and may ultimately be made distinct genera; but as they possess in common the above prominent characters, I associate them together for the present.

CAMIRUS THORACICUS, *n. sp.*

Minus convexus, niger, nitidus elytris hirsutis, antennis pedibusque rufis; thorace transversim sub-cordato, profunde canaliculato, punctis basalibus et lateralibus, paucisque discoidalibus magnis, elytris striatis, striis fortiter punctatis.

Long. corp. $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

First joint of antennæ rather longer and stouter than 2nd, 2-4 differing but little from one another, 5 and 6 each a little shorter than its predecessor, 7th distinctly stouter than 6th and quite as long as it, 8th narrower and much shorter than the adjoining joints, 9th-11th similar to one another in breadth, and a little broader than the 7th, the 10th about as long as broad. Thorax broader than long, rounded at the sides, greatly narrowed towards the front, and sinuate behind the middle, so that the hind angles are well marked right angles, it is of a shining black colour, and bears a few hairs, has a very deep channel on the middle which does not reach quite to the front or base, a deep narrow basal fovea on each side, a series of coarse punctures (those towards the front finer) along the side margins, one or two

* Cam-i-rus.—D. S.

other coarse basal punctures, and a few others, scattered on the surface. Scutellum moderately large. Elytra rather rounded at the shoulders, which are a good deal broader than the base of the thorax, rather densely clothed with a long, fine pubescence, and with eight rows of coarse punctures, which are placed in depressed, not well defined striæ. Legs red. Tarsi slender, basal joint of hind tarsus quite as long as the two following together, spurs of tibiæ minute.

Sent from Auckland by Mr. Lawson.

OBS.—I have at present before me only a single female of this very remarkable species, which is intermediate in appearance between *Scydmaenus* and *Catops*; I noted that a male which I formerly examined, had the two basal joints of the front tarsi dilated, and a minute supplemental apical segment to the hind body; my recollection on this latter point is not very trustworthy.

CAMIRUS CONVEXUS, *n. sp.*

Castaneus, nitidus, parvus aureo-pubescent; thorace punctis basilibus 7; elytris stria suturali, punctisque humeralibus.

Long. corp. $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm.

Mas, tarsis anterioribus articulis duobus leviter dilatatis; abdomine segmento 5^o ventrali fortiter emarginato-reflexo.

Antennæ similarly formed to those of *C. thoracicus*, but rather less elongate. Thorax greatly narrower than the elytra, transversely convex, as well as depressed in front, the sides sinuate and contracted behind the middle, the hind angles rectangular but not well defined, it bears an irregular bright yellow pubescence, and is impunctate, except for a series of large punctures, about seven in number, along the base. Elytra of a shining chestnut colour, with a similar pubescence to that of the thorax, with a well marked sutural stria, and impunctate, except for some coarse punctures at the shoulders. In the male, the basal joints of the front and middle tarsi are distinctly dilated, and the apical ventral segment is very broadly emarginate, the margins of the cut away part much elevated.

We are indebted to Mr. Lawson also for this species.

OBS.—This insect has quite the facies of a *Eumicrus* (in the *Scydmaenidæ*), and I had formerly referred it to that family; but the front coxal cavities, which are closed behind in the same manner as in *Catops*, indicate that it cannot be classed with the *Scydmaenidæ*. It is a remarkable fact that two insects, so distinct from other known forms, and so closely related *inter se*, as this species and *C. thoracicus* appear to be, should yet be so dissimilar in appearance from one another.

STERNAULAX LEVIS, *n. sp.*

Nigerrimus, nitidus; thorace margine laterali subtili integra, basi medio foveolato; elytris basi quadri-impressis, stria unica externa integra.

Long. corp. $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Thorax with the lateral margin very fine, but distinct throughout, near the front angles it is more distinct than behind, parallel with it some fine punctures, which extend also part of the way along the base, where indeed they are coarser than at the sides. Elytra very smooth and shining, with four impressions at the base, from the outer one of which there starts a stria, which, though much sinuated and very near the side, reaches the apex and is there deeper than elsewhere; at the extremity of the elytra are three or four abbreviated striæ, the outer one forms the termination of the lateral stria just described, and the one next it is continued some distance forward, though extremely fine in the front part, and is widely separated from the external stria. From the first (internally) and third of the basal impressions, there proceeds an extremely fine, short needle-scratch; the one from the third impression runs very obliquely towards the external stria. Except for these marks, the elytra are quite smooth. The pygidium and propygidium are coarsely punctured.

Auckland; a single specimen sent by Mr. Lawson.

OBS.—The genus *Sternaulax* consists of only two species, viz., *Sternaulax zealandicus*, Marseul, and a Madagascar species; the present species must be closely allied to Marseul's *S. zealandicus*, but differs from his figure and description by the striation of the elytra, and the want of punctuation at their apex.

PLATYSOMA COGNATUM, *n. sp.*

Obongo-oratum, sub-depressum, nigrum, nitidum, antennis tibiisque obscure rufis; prothorace elytrisque impunctatis, illis striis dorsalibus 3 profunde impressis, quartaque interna apicali abbreviata.

Long. corp. $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Head with a deep and well-marked line between the antennæ. Thorax impunctate, with the lateral and front margins entire. Elytra with three deep, entire striæ, and an abbreviated one at the extremity on the inner side of these, impunctate. Pygidium and propygidium rather coarsely punctured. Front tibiæ with four, middle with three, hind with two, sharp teeth.

This species also is due to Mr. Lawson, who sent it from Auckland.

OBS.—This species is extremely closely allied to our European *P. frontale* and *P. depressum*, and in form is about intermediate between the two. It may, however, be readily distinguished from them by the denticles of the tibiæ, and the want of lateral punctuation on the thorax.

SAPRINUS PEDATOR, *n. sp.*

Angustulus, convexus, nigro-piceus, impunctatus; elytris stria suturali integra, striisque 5—6 basalibus abbreviatis: tibiis anterioribus edentatis, extus grosse ciliatis, intermediis et posterioribus dilatatis, extus grosse punctatis.

Long. corp. $4-4\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Antennæ pitchy. Mandibles greatly exposed. Head with a very deep arched

impression, extending across it at the base of the mandibles, and also with an arched impressed line connecting the posterior portions of the eyes. Thorax short, considerably rounded at the sides, impunctate. Elytra with a well-marked sutural stria, and with five or six oblique short basal striæ; impunctate. Pygidium impunctate. Front tibiæ reddish, broad, rounded externally, and toothless, but fringed with coarse parchment-like ciliæ. Middle and hind tibiæ much dilated, furnished externally with large deep pits, in each of which is placed a coarse cilia, these ciliæ on the middle tibiæ are moderately long, but those on the hind pair are very short. Hind femora much dilated. Basal ventral segment elongate, the others so reduced in the middle as to appear there only like approximate striæ.

This extraordinary species was sent me by Captain Broun, with the No. 188 attached, and the following information: "On sea beach, one found when about to fly from *Algæ* on 11th December, 1875; and on 9th January, 1876, four under decayed fish, and another amongst *Algæ*." The ventral segments (which, in the condition of repose, are, as I have described, completely retractile) appear to be very mobile, so as to be capable of great elongation.

SORONIA HYSTRIX, *n. sp.*

Nigro rufoque variegata; suprâ tomentosa et setis erectis adspersa; prothorace lateribus undulatis. Long. corp. 3 mm.

Antennæ obscure reddish, 1st joint very broad and dilated, 2nd rather broader than the slender 3rd joint, 4 and 5 distinctly longer than the following, which are short and small, 9—11 forming a rather long club. Head blackish, dull, covered with tomentum, and with some erect setæ, the eyes bearing a patch of setæ. Thorax strongly transverse, the front margin sinuate on each side, the lateral margins waved so as to show three or four broad shallow emarginations, the base at the hind angles cut away (or suddenly narrowed), the hind angles sharply defined right angles; the colour is blackish with red marks at the sides, the surface being uneven, velvety, and bearing short black setæ. Elytra reddish, but rendered black by their clothing, which consists of a kind of tomentum, accumulated at some points into thicker patches, and bearing erect setæ, most of which are black, but those about the margins are paler. Legs reddish. Under-surface infusate-red, passing into blackish about the middle.

Tairua; Captain Broun.

OBS.—Though this peculiar little insect bears at first sight but little resemblance to our European *Soronia*, I believe, from my examination, that they are its nearest allies; and do not detect any prominent structural characters to distinguish it. I anticipate, from the specimens before me, that the species varies a good deal in colour.

XENOSCELIS PROLIXUS, *n. sp.*

Tarsis latis, breviusculis, articulo quarto oblecto. Elongatus, depressus, fusco-ferrugineus, sat nitidus, tenuiter pubescens, antennis pedibusque crassiusculis: crebre punctatus. Long. corp. $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $5\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Of peculiarly elongate, depressed, sub-parallel form. Antennæ stout, reddish, with the club more obscure; in structure like those of *Cryptophagus*, 1st joint almost globular, 2nd short and stout, 3rd not elongate, but longer than the contiguous joints, 4-8 similar to one another, bead-like, 9th and 10th transverse, 11th rather large. Head rather closely and coarsely punctured, the eyes but little prominent. Thorax distinctly longer than broad, nearly straight at the sides, very slightly narrowed behind, the side margin in front of the hind angles with a minute acute denticle, and the hind angle itself minutely acute; the surface is rather coarsely but not densely punctured, so that the interstices between the punctures are shining, it bears a fine and scanty pubescence, is flattened along the disc, and indistinctly bi-impressed. Elytra very elongate, bearing rows of distinct, but not very coarse punctures, the punctures bear a fine hair. Under-surface dark reddish, very finely and scantily pubescent. Legs stout, reddish; the tibiæ short, thickened towards their extremity, and curved; the tarsi short, the three basal joints short and stout, and very pubescent beneath, the 3rd joint deeply emarginate, so that the short and small 4th joint is entirely concealed, and can only be detected on a careful examination; 5th joint short.

Sent both from Auckland and Tairua by Messrs. Lawson and Broun, but only four or five specimens; Captain Broun's specimens were among some species forwarded to me as found on *Cyathea dealbata*.

OBS.—This remarkable species is, I have no doubt, correctly placed near Mr. Wollaston's *Xenoscelis deplanatus* (Canary Islands). In general structure it is very similar to that species, so that I have given it the same generic name, notwithstanding the difference in the tarsi.

RHIZONIUM, *n. gen.* (*Colydiidæ*).

Coxæ posteriores contiguæ.

Abdomen segmento basale secundo longiore.

Caput lateribus haud reflexis.

Antennæ 11-articulatæ, clava tri-articulata.

N.B.—*Ex affinitate Teredi et Oxytami, sed primo visu Rhizophago simile.*

Antennæ short and stout, with the basal joint quite exposed, the club consisting of the transverse 9th and 10th joints and the narrower 11th joint. Last joint of maxillary palpi longer than the preceding. Eyes free and prominent. Front coxæ contiguous, middle and posterior nearly so. Metasternum elongate. First ventral segment of hind-body considerably longer than the following. Legs rather slender; the tarsi rather short and moderately stout, their basal joint not elongate.

OBS.—The insect for which I make this generic name, in its form and sculpture, so much resembles a *Rhizophagus*, that I omitted it in my paper on the New Zealand *Colydiidæ*, from having placed it on one

side (without examination) as an ally of that group of the *Nitidulidæ*. Its affinities, however, are certainly with *Teredus* and *Oxylæmus*, though the structure of its antennæ (which are not very dissimilar from those of *Aulonium*) readily distinguish it therefrom.

RHIZONIUM ANTIQUM, n. sp.

Sub-depressum, sat nitidum, fortiter punctatum, ferrugineum, nudum.

Long. corp. vix 2 mm.

Antennæ reddish, much shorter than head and thorax, rather stout; 1st and 2nd joints stout, not longer than broad, about equal to one another; 3—8 broad, very short, quite similar to one another; 9th and 10th rather strongly transverse, quite distinct from one another; 11th a good deal narrower than 10th, but longer than it. Head about as broad as the thorax, rather coarsely punctured, without any raised lateral margins. Thorax quadrate, about as long as broad, and about straight at the sides, the hind angles very indistinct on account of the curving of the base; the surface rather coarsely punctured. Elytra moderately closely, and coarsely punctured, the punctures arranged in rows, which, however, are not very distinct.

Four specimens of this interesting little species were sent me by Captain Brown among some insects found on *Cyathea dealbata* at Tairua.

TELMATOPHILUS DEPRESSUS, n. sp.

Colore variabilis, testaceus, vel fusco-testaceus, vel fere niger; depressus, nudus, sed minus nitidus; thorace parce subtiliterque punctato, lateribus sinuatis, angulis posterioribus rectis; elytris subtiliter punctato-striatis, punctis apice obsoletis.

Long. corp. 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ mm.

Antennæ yellow; 1st joint thicker and longer than 2nd; 3rd slightly longer than 2nd; 5th a good deal longer than either 4th or 6th; 7th also distinctly larger than the contiguous joints; 8th joint small; 9—11 of about the same width, forming an abrupt club, very loosely articulated; the 9th and 10th transverse. Head finely and sparingly punctured. Thorax considerably narrower than the elytra, rather strongly transverse, the sides somewhat sinuate behind the middle, the hind angles sharply marked and nearly rectangular, the surface dull, but only finely and sparingly punctured, transversely depressed in front of the base, and with a very minute basal impression on each side. Elytra elongate and flat, with rows of fine punctures, which become obsolete at the extremity. Legs yellow.

Probably common in the Auckland district.

Obs.—This species is very variable in colour. Its flattened form, destitute of pubescence, give it at first sight but little resemblance to our European *Telmatophili*; but, nevertheless, it possesses the structure of the tarsi highly developed after the manner of *Telmatophilus*. The figure in Du Val's *Genera des Col. d'Eur.* (pl. 52, f. 259b) of the tarsus of *Psammecus bipunctatus* is very like that of this species.

(To be continued.)